



Interstate 680 Sunol Grade SMART Lanes Project Alameda County & Santa Clara County, California

REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21 EARMARK FUNDING REQUEST



The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, in conjunction with Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, requests \$5,000,000 to match local dollars to construct, maintain and operate a SMART Carpool Lane Demonstration Project (also known as a high-occupancy toll or "HOT" lane) on a 14-mile stretch of Interstate-680 at Sunol Grade. The funds will be used to provide automatic toll collection, video surveillance and other enforcement equipment, start-up and operational costs necessary for the first HOT lane in Northern California.

This funding will allow local agencies to begin operating the SMART Carpool Lane in the southbound direction as soon as possible. If the revenue collection is as successful as travel forecasting and economic analysis indicate, the surplus revenues will be available to help fund construction of the northbound HOV lane and improved transit service in the corridor. The Governor of California signed AB 2032 to authorize this project. The State Legislature gave overwhelming support to passage of this legislation (Senate 28-4 and Assembly 75-2).

There are three objectives for the SMART lane: (1) Use existing highway capacity more efficiently by fully using the HOV lanes and by taking vehicles out of the other non-HOV lanes; (2) Give drivers an option to save time and bypass traffic congestion in exchange for paying a toll; and (3) Raise revenues that can be used to pay for improvements in the I-680 corridor, including better transit service.